



## **Memorandum of Understanding in the Field of Renewable Energy**

A Memorandum of Understanding in the field of renewable energy was signed between the Solar Energy Centre of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Government of India and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory of the United States Department of Energy on 23rd March 2000. Shri N.N.Mookerjee, Secretary in the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and Dr. Ernest J. Moniz, Under Secretary of Energy in the United States Department of Energy signed the MoU on behalf of the respective institutions.

2. The MoU envisages cooperation between the Solar Energy Centre, MNES and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, US Department of Energy to promote scientific and technological cooperation in the field of renewable energy and also envisages cooperation with other institutions of both the countries. The activities proposed to be undertaken under this MoU include strengthening of capacities for energy technology innovation, promoting technologies to increase energy conservation and promoting technologies for a cleaner energy supply. The forms of cooperation under this MoU include exchange of technical information and experience and technical and managerial personnel, joint testing of equipment and holding of conferences and seminars.
3. India and USA have a history of cooperation in the field of non-conventional energy spreading for over the past decade. Initially, the Indo-US Cooperation was confined to the areas of Research and Development in renewable energy. With the successful completion of the Programme for Acceleration of Commercial Energy Research (PACER), commercial cooperation between the two countries also started. SEC and NREL were already having a collaborative agreement up to December 1999. Under the earlier agreement, a project for rural electrification in the Sunderbans area of West Bengal was successfully implemented by providing solar photovoltaic power to around 600 families.
4. The Solar Energy Centre was set up by Government of India in Gurgaon on the outskirts of Delhi and is a premier institute for research, development and testing of solar energy equipment and devices. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory of USA is located at Golden, Colorado and is a focal institute in the area of renewable energy in USA.

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